

Executive Registry

11-544

3 January 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Mr. Robert Kleberg,
[redacted] this date

1. Mr. Kleberg called for the Director and in his absence, inquired of the Watch Office reference the Cuban situation and whether Mr. Dulles felt that Mr. Castro was going to succeed in taking over the Government without any trouble. Mr. Kleberg advised the Watch that he had spoken with Mr. Dulles previously, and Mr. Dulles was aware of the investments which Mr. Kleberg had in Cuba. He asked that someone call him [redacted] at his home, [redacted]

2. The undersigned called Col. J. C. King, who concurred that this was a matter for the State Department and this was not a question to which this Agency could respond. Col. King advised that he felt Kleberg could be told that the Castro forces were apparently in control of the situation, but that more conservative elements in the longer term would undoubtedly have some influence over the course of events there.

3. I called Mr. Kleberg and advised that I was responding to his call to the Director, and that I was sure he understood that this Agency was not in a position to advise him with respect to his personal investments in Cuba or on the Cuban situation. I suggested he might wish to place his inquiry concerning the situation to the Department of State. I then provided him with that portion of the comments suggested by Colonel King in the second sentence, paragraph 2, above. Mr. Kleberg was most appreciative and stated he clearly understood our position. He advised that he did want to suggest an idea which he had. Mr. Kleberg stated that he believed there might be some real possibilities for the Catholic Church from outside of the country to act as quickly as possible, in order to do something about the situation in Cuba. He stated he felt it might be a way to get the Cuban people to rally for something worthwhile and that an appeal right from the Vatican might be in order. Mr. Kleberg suggested that we might wish to pass this idea along to the appropriate Government department. I thanked him for his suggestion.

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